

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

GAMING CONTROL BOARD

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IN RE: PARX CASINO - CAT 4 SHIPPENSBURG

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PUBLIC INPUT HEARING

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BEFORE: LINDA LLOYD, Chair
Mark Mustio
Frank Dermody
Sean Logan (via Zoom)
Denise J. Smyler (via Zoom)

HEARING: Thursday, May 20, 2021
4:01 p.m.

LOCATION: Shippensburg University
LUHRS Center
1871 Old Main Drive
Shippensburg, PA 17257

Reporter: Bernadette M. Black

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WITNESSES: Mark Stewart, Esquire; Thomas Bonner,
Esquire; John Dixon; Ron Davis; Carolyn Carter;
Steve Oldt; Sonya Payne; Pastor Jim Rogers; W.
Mickey Nye; Janet H. Rose; J. Daniel Byers; Pastor
Bruce Levy; Joshua Rosetta; Anastasia A. Hummer;
Patti Slozat; Wayne Gruver; Wayne Brubaker; Sally
Hershey; Ed Schale; Deborah Heefner; Alvin Martin;
Linda S. Asper

A P P E A R A N C E S

ALSO PRESENT:

JOHN DIXON, Chief Operating Officer

RON DAVIS, Director of Diversity & Community
Development

CAROLYN CARTER, Assistant Director of Security

MARK STEWART, ESQUIRE, Outside Counsel for GW
Cumberland Operating Company

THOMAS BONNER, ESQUIRE, Vice President for Legal and
General Counsel, Greenwood Racing, Inc.

STEVE OLDT, Shippensburg Township

LINDA S. ASPER, Shippensburg Township

KATHY COY, Shippensburg Borough, Mayor

SONYA F. PAYNE, Shippensburg Community Resource
Coalition

J. DANIEL BYERS, Vigilant Hose Company - FD

JIM ROGERS, Shippensburg FCOG

W. MICKEY NYE, Shippensburg Area Development Corp.

JANET H. ROSE, Shippensburg Civic Club

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P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIR: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Linda Lloyd and I am the Presiding Officer conducting this Public Input Hearing addressing the Category 4 Casino proposed by Greenwood Gaming Entertainment, doing business as Parx and GW Cumberland Op Co, to be located in Shippensburg Township. This proceeding is being recorded today by a Court Reporter and is also being recorded on audio and video as well as being simultaneously streamed lived on the Board's website.

I would like to remind everyone attending today that it is a policy of Shippensburg University that everyone in attendance in the LURFH Center please wear a mask at all times throughout the time you are in the building today.

The date today is Thursday, May 20th, 2001 (sic). The time is 4:01 p.m., and the location is the LURFH Center, at Shippensburg University Conference Center, located at 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Gaming Act, as amended, at Section 1305.1, created a new category of Slot Machine

1 Licenses referred to as Category 4 Licenses.

2 On February 28th, 2018 Greenwood
3 Gaming and Entertainment won the Category 4 License
4 Auction, with a winning bid of \$8,111,000, giving it
5 the opportunity to propose and build a facility
6 within a 15-mile radius of the longitude and
7 latitude coordinates provided with the winning bid.
8 Shippensburg Township falls within this proposed
9 radius.

10 This Public Input Hearing is being
11 held by the Board pursuant to the mandate found in
12 Section 1205(b)(1) of the Gaming Act that requires
13 a Public Input Hearing be held in a municipality
14 where the licensed facility is proposed to be
15 located prior to the Board's consideration of the
16 Slot Machine License Application.

17 The purpose of the hearing today is to
18 provide the Applicant the opportunity to present its
19 plan for Category 4 Casino to the Board and to the
20 public and to provide the public with the
21 opportunity to express their thoughts and share
22 their concerns about the proposed project with the
23 Board.

24 This Public Hearing was advertised on
25 the Board's website, announced by the Board at

1 public Board meetings and advertised in local
2 newspaper.

3 This is the second hearing addressing
4 a proposed Category 4 Casino. The first hearing
5 addressed proposed location just off Interstate 81.
6 However, a new location has been chosen and this
7 hearing will address the new proposal as set forth
8 in the updated application on the Board's website.

9 Board members present for today's
10 hearing are here on the stage with me. To my left
11 is Commission Mustio and to my right, Commissioner
12 Dermody. And attending the meeting today, via Zoom
13 link, are Commissioners Logan and Smyler.

14 The order of speakers today is as
15 follows - are to have approximately 45 minutes to
16 make his presentation of his proposed project and
17 then we will hear from those who have registered to
18 speak today. Each registered speaker will have five
19 minutes to speak. This is an official
20 Administrative Hearing, so please treat this as if
21 you were attending a court proceeding.

22 All witnesses, please speak loudly and
23 clearly into the microphone, so that the Court
24 Reporter and others can hear what you have to say.
25 And this is especially important today, we're all

1 wearing masks.

2 So let's begin by having all the
3 witnesses from Parx, who will testify in the hearing
4 today please stand and raise your right hand and be
5 sworn by our Court Reporter.

6 ---

7 WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE

8 ---

9 CHAIR: And when you begin speaking,
10 if you could just state your name and spell it for
11 the Court Reporter, so she knows who's speaking.
12 Thank you.

13 You may begin.

14 MR. STEWART: Thank you very much.
15 Commissioner and Director Lloyd, my name is Mark
16 Stewart. That's M-A-R-K, S-T-E-W-A-R-T. I'm with
17 the law firm Eckert Seamans and I'm here today on
18 behalf of GW Cumberland Op Co, who is the Applicant
19 for the proposed Category 4 licensed facility.

20 Thank you very much for holding
21 today's Public Hearing. We're very excited to be in
22 Shippensburg and to be discussing our proposed
23 Category 4 Casino. And to kick things off, I will
24 turn things over to the Applicant's president and
25 Greenwood Racing Inc.'s group Vice President for

1 Legal and General Counsel, Tom Bonner.

2 ATTORNEY BONNER: Thank you, Mark.

3 Thomas Bonner, B-O-N-N-E-R. Good afternoon,
4 Commissioners, both present here and present
5 virtually, and Gaming Board staff. Thank you for
6 all that you've done to make the arrangements for
7 today's hearing.

8 But I'd also like to thank the elected
9 officials of Shippensburg Township who are here in
10 attendance. I also would like to thank
11 representatives of Shippensburg - Shippensburg
12 University for inviting us into this beautiful
13 facility, so that we could have this hearing in a
14 very comfortable place.

15 I'd like now to introduce my
16 colleagues, who will be delivering the bulk of the
17 presentation to you. To my immediate left is Ron
18 Davis. He's our Director Of Diversity And Community
19 Development. To Ron's left is John Dixon, our
20 Casino Chief Operating Officer, and he is also
21 Project Leader for this particular project. And to
22 John's left is Carolyn Carter, our Assistant
23 Director of Security at Parx Casino.

24 And with that, Commissioners, I'd like
25 to turn it over to John Dixon to begin the

1 presentation.

2 MR. DIXON: Thank you, Tom. Good
3 afternoon, everybody, and thank you for taking the
4 time out of your day to come and listen to our
5 presentation today. Just to give you a little bit
6 of history about Parx Casino.

7 We are the number one casino in
8 Pennsylvania, since we opened in 2006, originally
9 embracing the grandstand building at Parx. And then
10 in 2009 we opened the current building you can see
11 in the pictures here.

12 Since we began, we've invested more
13 than \$700 million into the casino buildings and
14 facilities in Bensalem. And we believe we've
15 created a beautiful destination and we deliver first
16 class service that gives our customers great
17 satisfaction.

18 We've also got the best team of
19 operators, we believe, in the country. Our team
20 members are unbelievably good at their jobs. We're
21 very proud also of our record of commitment to
22 diversity, community outreach and social
23 responsibility. And you'll hear some more of that
24 from my colleague, Ron, when he talks later on in
25 the presentation.

1 Many of our team members have been
2 with us over ten years. I think that shows that we
3 are also a good company to work for. We prioritize
4 local residents for hiring, and for vendor
5 selection, too. So we try and support the local
6 community as much as we possibly can and we'll do
7 the same thing here in Shippensburg. We'll be
8 looking to hire local people for the jobs at the
9 Casino and we'll be looking for local vendors that
10 we can get supplies from as well.

11 We want to maintain that strong
12 relationship with the community to ensure that there
13 are no adverse impacts to the Township. We really
14 want to be good citizens everywhere that we operate.
15 That's a kind of core value of our business. We
16 also have a strong commitment to responsible gaming
17 and compliance, and that's evidenced by our strong
18 record in these areas. The PGCB oversees us and our
19 compliance efforts and we operate under some very
20 strict rules and controls in order to make sure that
21 everything is fair and, you know, games are operated
22 correctly and all the necessary procedures are
23 followed. So, we'll just quickly through a few
24 shots of the Bensalem property, so you can see the
25 kind of operation we have.

1 Now, this is part of the slot floor,
2 with the Xlounge Bar in the background. We also
3 have the Xcite Center, which is a 1,500 seat
4 live-entertainment venue, state-of-the-art lighting,
5 sound systems. We've had some excellent acts
6 perform there, including famous acts like Elton
7 John, Chicago, lots and lots of others.

8 Unfortunately we've been closed for
9 the last year because of the COVID. We hope to
10 bring bands back to the arena sometime later next
11 month. That's another view of our Xlounge Bar, and
12 also of course we have dining facilities at the
13 casino. So, this is our Liberty Bell Gastropub,
14 sports viewing area as well and then this is our
15 SportsBook. It's an 8,000 square foot SportsBook,
16 one of the largest in Pennsylvania. That big screen
17 that you can see on the wall there is 160 feet long,
18 so that's one of the largest TV screens.

19 And this is our Beer Garden, which has
20 a retractable roof, and the side walls and so fold
21 open. So, during the summer months it's an outdoor
22 space, very popular, and - because the roof and
23 everything closes up again, we can use it
24 year-round.

25 Let's talk about some benefits for the

1 Commonwealth that we've created over the last few
2 years. So, Parx, being the number one casino,
3 generates the highest revenues and gaming taxes
4 amongst the Pennsylvania casinos. Since we opened
5 in 2006, we've paid the following taxes to the
6 Commonwealth. These numbers are through May the
7 14th.

8 We've paid over \$3.2 billion in total
9 taxes. Slot machines generated \$2.9 billion for the
10 Commonwealth. Table games have generated \$245
11 million. We started taking sports bets in January
12 of 2019, and so far we've paid \$18 million in taxes
13 to the Commonwealth and Online Casino, we've paid
14 taxes of \$42 million to the Commonwealth.

15 So, you know, we have generated a lot
16 of revenue for the Commonwealth, which is for the
17 benefit of the citizens of the Commonwealth. Our
18 current workforce, we've got just under 1,900
19 employees currently in our daily operations and 222
20 employees in our racing operation, 1,784 of those
21 employees are Pennsylvania residents, 82 percent.
22 The rest most of them live in New Jersey, which of
23 course, the Bensalem location is only a couple miles
24 away from the state border with New Jersey. Forty-
25 two (42) percent of our employees are

1 representatives of various historically-under-
2 represented groups. That goes to our commitment to
3 diversity that I mentioned earlier, and 39 percent
4 of our employees are women.

5 Now, I'd like to introduce Ron Davis,
6 who will talk about diversity and our community
7 endeavors.

8 MR. DAVIS: Thank you very much, John.

9 First of all, let me say how thankful
10 and grateful I am. Grateful to the people here at
11 the University, grateful to the citizens of
12 Shippensburg that have come out with interest. No
13 matter what that interest is, we are here to listen.
14 That's what we do well, we listen and we respond to
15 that listening.

16 If there's any example of that it's
17 Parx Bensalem. We started out with a commitment to
18 the community and we believe in servant leadership.
19 We are here to serve the community, serve our
20 customers and our staff, part of that whole
21 commitment of Parx.

22 We believe also in effective teams
23 building, effective teams inside and outside the
24 facility. So in the community we are - we are
25 strong. We are the catalyst to a lot of good that's

1 done in the community. We've done well, but we
2 believe in doing good. We've done well, but we
3 believe in doing good. A lot of that happens
4 through diversity. Different individuals valuing
5 each other regardless of skin, intellect, talent or
6 years. We really believes in that. There's a table
7 (sic) for everyone at the table.

8 We just recently started our business
9 resource groups and they represent women's
10 leadership. They represent people of color. They
11 represent seniors. They represent people with
12 disabilities. They represent the pride community
13 and they represent the veterans.

14 And I don't know how many people out
15 there are veterans, but we do a lot for veterans.
16 We are veteran-oriented, but we have a thing called
17 Tour of Honor, in which we, during the nonpandemic
18 days, we'd take the World War II and - and the
19 Korean veterans to Washington, D.C., and let them
20 see and honor them for - at the monuments there and
21 then bring them back to our facility.

22 So, we would do the same kinds of
23 things here. We have a faith-based initiative
24 called Unity Week. Unity Week is a tremendous boost
25 to our community

1 What we do at Parx - we have a
2 breakfast, where we bring business community and
3 religious community together and have breakfast
4 together. And then each house of worship, no matter
5 what that house of worship, host a lunch every year
6 and Parx is part of that, and our team is a part of
7 that as we go forward.

8 As we build, we build the expectation,
9 but we built partnerships. We build partnerships
10 with our colleges and universities. You'll see the
11 letters that I have in each one of these categories
12 to bring you, as an introduction to this journey.
13 I believe very strongly we're on a journey of
14 commitment and faith and of workforce development.

15 One of the things that happens often
16 and I'll get letters, we have hundreds of them,
17 thanking us for the partnership that we have and
18 I'll go through a few of those partnership in the
19 next slide.

20 We have from the Philadelphia
21 Christian Center. We have Phil Menditto, who has
22 supported us tremendously. A lot of food giving.
23 We give during the holidays. We give on special
24 days, and if we have excess food, we give it away to
25 the community in some way, form or fashion. We find

1 out how we might do that.

2 Livengrin, we realize that some
3 people cannot handle and are addicted to gambling.
4 And so we intentionally - the word intentionally is
5 very big - reach out to those sources who can help
6 people in trouble and we are told by the Council -
7 PA Council on Gambling, about one percent of the
8 people out there have that problem. So, we are
9 going to be responsible. It's a double-edged sword
10 sometimes and Livengrin is our answer. They are a
11 facility that can help people with problem gambling
12 addiction.

13 We also have one of our slides -
14 Special Olympics. Again, looking at all the
15 diversity segments that are very important to us.
16 We want to reach out and be part of that solution to
17 help underpin and help support the Special Olympics.
18 We're very big on the Special Olympics.

19 And then Bucks County Community
20 College and College - Philadelphia - Community
21 College in Philadelphia has special programs that
22 help people in the affinity groups that we've
23 outlined already and so we're excited about that.
24 The opportunities here at Shippensburg that could
25 happen.

1 We're excited about the word
2 opportunity, and it is an opportunity, in my
3 estimation, to do - to paint a picture that - a
4 picture of progress, a picture of things that are -
5 that may be needed by the community.

6 The American Red Cross. I'm very
7 blessed to be on the National Board of the American
8 Red Cross for our efforts at Parx. They've seen our
9 efforts locally. So, I was chosen to help them
10 figure out in American how to - to relate to cities,
11 small towns, rural areas, the Red Cross message and
12 we contribute to Red Cross, as you see.

13 Habitat for Humanity is one of the
14 great stars of our outreach. Our employees actually
15 go out and build houses. They come - they work and
16 then they go out and build houses. We support that
17 effort. We support them because they support us.
18 So we're so, so happy about that.

19 Scholarships. We have a scholarship
20 program. In fact, there's one that's going on right
21 now with our high schools in the area of Bensalem.
22 Our executives take time to grade, read and focus on
23 identifying scholars at each one of the high
24 schools, and then the scholars awarded with \$2,500
25 scholarships to the college of their choice. We -

1 we've been doing that for ten years, and you can see
2 some of these schools are listed here. We have the
3 holiday giving of food and Red Cross funding.

4 And churches, again, I mentioned our
5 Unity Week, but we also built an African-American
6 Church, rebuilt -. Parx actually contributed to
7 Bensalem AME Church a significant amount of money
8 and we celebrate that. We host Jewish dinners for
9 the outreach community and places of worship.

10 Excess food donations, as we said, and
11 Emergency Services, again, we are open to helping
12 the community. We have given four ambulances and
13 you see what we've contributed there.

14 And VFW, and Summer Concert Series,
15 you have festivals. I know there's a corn festival
16 and other festivals that are here, they're very
17 important to the community. We want to be part of
18 it. Our employees want to be part of it and we
19 encourage that.

20 We're just not a box. We believe that
21 we're an economic generator, but a positive
22 generator for good in the community. So, we also
23 see - NAACP - we're a corporate member in the Latino
24 Leadership Alliance.

25 So to kind of sum it up. We're

1 hopeful and grateful for, number one, being here,
2 and for you being here, and grateful for the
3 accountability that the Gaming Board brings because
4 without accountability, anything could happen, but
5 we - we praise them. We praise everyone from - from
6 top to bottom for everything that they contribute to
7 the community. Your interest, your passion is what
8 we want to set ourselves around.

9 So, let me do one thing in closing
10 that I always do. If anybody has a question, I have
11 a - I'll give you my email. R Davis @ Parx Casino.
12 com. I will answer it. Or my phone number,
13 (267) 223-3610. I'll repeat it again,
14 (267) 223-3610. We're committed. We are excited.
15 Our journey continues with you.

16 So, thank you for - for being here and
17 being part of this. I'll turn it back over to John.

18 MR. DIXON: Thanks Ron.

19 So, I'd just like to go over the
20 project review, just to give you some details about
21 the location.

22 First of all, in case anyone doesn't
23 know where it is, the proposed location is 250 South
24 Conestoga Drive in Shippensburg, and that of course
25 is the former Lowe's store. That's been closed for

1 a few years now. We propose to take over that
2 building. The casino will occupy about 73,000
3 square feet, which is just over half of the current
4 building and use approximately 500 of the parking
5 spaces there, and the remainder of the building will
6 be developed for something - some other use at a
7 later date.

8 The casino will open with
9 approximately 500 slot machines and 48 electronic
10 table game positions. Along with a first class
11 sports bar and restaurant. We also plan to offer
12 sports wagering on professional and college sporting
13 events, and this slide just shows the location of
14 the Lowe's. The same shopping area as the Walmart,
15 and just off of Walnut Bottom Road. It also has
16 another access that goes out to Route 11.

17 So, it does have great access to the
18 surrounding - to get back to the main roads, back to
19 81. It doesn't go through any kind of residential
20 neighborhoods or anything like that and this is a
21 rendering of a proposed look to the building. So,
22 you can see on the right-hand side here is the
23 former porte-cochere, where you would load up goods
24 from Lowe's. We propose to put a big sign on the
25 front of that.

1 Chickie & Pete is a Philadelphia
2 restaurant, you might have heard - a sports bar
3 operator. We are negotiating with them to bring
4 Chickie & Pete's here as a food and beverage
5 operator inside the casino and the space at the far
6 left that has no sign, that's the remainder of the
7 building, which we'll develop to some future use.

8 So, the economic benefits of the
9 project. During construction there'll be
10 approximately 175 construction jobs, we estimate,
11 and \$65 million of economic benefit generated during
12 that construction phase, with one and a half million
13 dollars of tax revenue to the Commonwealth.

14 Once we are open, we're going to
15 create 125 what we call FTEs, which is full-time
16 equivalents. And what that really means is there
17 will be jobs for about 75 full-time employees and
18 about 100 part-time employees in the casino, and in
19 addition there will be food and beverage employees
20 for Chickie's & Pete's, at least 25, and probably
21 more.

22 So, the benefit of all those jobs will
23 be to generate \$60 million in annual economic
24 benefit to the Commonwealth, along with \$25 million
25 of additional gaming, income and business taxes.

1 We offer our team members the best
2 benefits package in the regional gaming industry.
3 The average annual salary at Parx is \$48,700. So,
4 these are good jobs with - with good pay. They're
5 not minimum-wage jobs. A total of approximately
6 \$1.8 million per annum is predicted for the local
7 share, and 50 percent of that goes to the Township,
8 and 50 percent goes to Cumberland County.

9 We also project that additional
10 property tax will be generated as the assessed value
11 will go up, and that will obviously increase the tax
12 paid on that building.

13 So, casino operations. Just a couple
14 of things we'd like to point out. Pennsylvania
15 casinos operate under the strictest regulatory
16 standards in the country and are run by
17 well-established, highly-regarded corporations like
18 us. Onsite PGCB Casino Compliance Officers monitor
19 all our operations every day in the casino. So the
20 regulator is always present and keeping an eye out
21 on what's happening and making sure that everything
22 that we do is correct.

23 Parx also has a comprehensive
24 compulsive gambling plan that is subject to rigorous
25 monitoring and enforcement by PGCB. The plan we

1 currently operate under has been used for 15 years
2 now at our Bensalem location and it's reviewed and
3 reapproved by the PGCB. So we do take compulsive
4 gambling very seriously, and as Ron mentioned, we
5 support local organizations to help people who need
6 help in those areas.

7 In addition, casinos feature onsite
8 Security Departments and 24/7 Surveillance
9 Departments to ensure that we have a safe
10 environment both inside and outside our facility.
11 And to talk a little bit about that, I'd like to
12 introduce Carolyn Carter, who is our Assistant
13 Director of Security at the Parx Casino.

14 MS. CARTER: Thank you John. Good -
15 thank you, John. Good afternoon to everyone and
16 thank you for having us here today.

17 COURT REPORTER: Excuse me, can you
18 pull your microphone up, so we can all hear you?

19 Thank you.

20 MS. CARTER: You're welcome. Well
21 first of all, my name is Carolyn Carter
22 C-A-R-O-L-Y-N, Carter, C-A-R-T-E-R.

23 So a little bit about security.
24 Security Officers and Security Management will be
25 present within the casino at all times when the

1 casino is open to the public. Management consists
2 of LSOs, which is Lead Security Officers. We have
3 Managers, Assistant Director, which is myself, as
4 well as our Director. Security Officers will be
5 present within the casino on a 24/7 basis. The
6 entire property, including the parking area, will be
7 under 24-hour surveillance - 24/7 surveillance, with
8 live surveillance operators working at all time.

9 Security Officers will patrol parking
10 areas on a regular basis and rides are available to
11 and from your car to the door of the casino.
12 Security Officers stationed at the entrances to the
13 casino will require identification to all customers
14 who appear to be 30 years - or under 30, and a valid
15 government-issued license or I.D.s, could be a
16 driver's license or a nondriver's license from all
17 50 states, including Canada. A valid passport can
18 be used, a military I.D. Expired license, I.D.s or
19 whatever they try to produce will not work. They
20 will have to be valid at all times.

21 MR. DIXON: Thank you, Carolyn.

22 So just to sum up, we believe
23 Shippensburg Township offers an outstanding
24 opportunity for a potential Category 4 Casino. The
25 site that we propose to use of the Lowe's building

1 has already got excellent egress and parking and
2 won't, we believe, adversely impact neighborhoods
3 and it will generate a powerful economic boost to
4 the Township of Shippensburg.

5 So, the Parx team is the number one
6 team in Pennsylvania, as I mentioned earlier and our
7 record of success provides confidence to
8 Shippensburg that we will deliver the anticipated
9 economic benefits, but we'll conduct ourselves in a
10 manner that respects and complements the heritage of
11 you people and the Township of Shippensburg.

12 Thank you very much again for taking
13 time out of your day to listen to our presentation
14 today.

15 CHAIR: I will turn to our
16 Commissioners, to see if we have any questions for
17 the Parx -.

18 Commissioner Mustio? No. Okay.

19 Commissioner Dermody?

20 MR. DERMODY: Just one question.
21 Based on the security. You mentioned during your
22 presentation the Security Officers patrolling the
23 parking area on a regular basis.

24 What's regular basis mean?

25 MS. CARTER: Twenty-four (24) hours a

1 day, seven days a week.

2 MR. DERMODY: I understand that, but
3 how frequently would they - once an hour? Once
4 every 15 minutes? How long would they be in the
5 parking areas?

6 MS. CARTER: They're out there the
7 whole entire 24 hours. They switch up every two
8 hours with different Security Officers. We have a
9 couple vehicles at once - like on one side of the
10 casino. Then they switch up and just - it's
11 covered.

12 MR. DERMODY: Okay.
13 It's important to me. You mentioned
14 there could be 500 spaces there. So it will take
15 some work.

16 MS. CARTER: Yeah, and we have
17 vehicles. We have - I don't know if you know what
18 they are, but they're Santa Fes, and here's a
19 picture of our vehicles that we have in the parking
20 lot and they have lights on top and they're always
21 on.

22 MR. DERMODY: Thank you.

23 MS. CARTER: You're welcome.

24 CHAIR: Commissioner Logan, do you
25 have any questions?

1 Moving on. Commissioner Smyler, do
2 you have any questions?

3 MS. SMYLER: No. Actually,
4 Commissioner Dermody asked the only questions I had
5 in mind. So, thank you.

6 CHAIR: Okay.

7 One housekeeping matter. We will move
8 Parx PowerPoint presentation into the record as Parx
9 Exhibit 1. It will also be on the Board's website,
10 if you care to revisit the PowerPoint presentation
11 after we adjourn.

12 ---

13 (Whereupon, Parx Exhibit 1, PowerPoint,
14 Presentation, was marked for identification.)

15 ---

16 CHAIR: Anything additional for Parx
17 at this time?

18 ATTORNEY STEWART: Nothing additional.

19 CHAIR: Then we will move on to the
20 public comment portion of the hearing.

21 I will remind all speakers who are
22 registered they will have five minutes to make your
23 comments. To assist all speakers in gauging the
24 time limit permitted, we have an electric stop light
25 timer, which is located right here in front of me.

1 When the light turns green, your allotted five
2 minutes has started and I will start out by asking
3 you to introduce yourself and state your name for
4 the record.

5 At 45 seconds of your allotted - at 45
6 seconds before your five minutes are over, the
7 yellow light will turn on and at the end of your
8 time, the red light will turn on and you will hear a
9 beeping sound. At that time, I will ask you stop
10 speaking and leave the microphone.

11 If for some reason you're not able
12 stop, get all of your comments out before your time
13 is expired, you'll have the opportunity to submit
14 any remaining thoughts via email to the Board Clerk
15 and I'll provide that email address at the end of
16 the hearing.

17 Again, each speaker should begin their
18 remarks by stating their name and the Township or
19 municipality where you reside. And if speaking on
20 behalf of an entity or group, please tell us who
21 that group or entity is. To keep the hearing
22 moving, because it's a little bit of distance to the
23 microphones down here, there's one on this side of
24 the landing and one on the other side of the
25 landing, so make your way to the closest microphone.

1 I will call two names at a time. The first name I
2 call will be the speaker. The second name I call
3 will be the person on deck, so to speak.

4 So, that second name should be ready
5 to come forward as the speaker - before he finishes
6 his comments. Hopefully this will keep us moving
7 and give you a little bit of time to get down the
8 steps and to the microphone.

9 So, we will first start with our list
10 of local government representatives. This is the
11 list that was published to the Board's website at
12 the close of registration at noon on Monday, last
13 Monday. Our local government representatives that
14 have signed up to speak, if you could stand as I
15 call your name. Steve Oldt. Linda Asper, if she's
16 here. I'm not sure if she made it yet. If she
17 isn't, we'll call her at the end again. And Sonya
18 Payne.

19 If you could, raise your right hand to
20 be sworn in by the Court Reporter.

21 ---

22 STEVE OLDT,
23 CALLED AS A WITNESS IN THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING, AND
24 HAVING FIRST BEEN DULY SWORN, TESTIFIED AND SAID AS
25 FOLLOWS:

1 ---

2 CHAIR: We have Steve Oldt up first.
3 Step before the microphone and if Sonya Payne can be
4 ready behind him. You may begin.

5 MR. OLDT: Okay. Thank you,
6 Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board. Thank you for
7 the opportunity.

8 My name is Steve Oldt, Shippensburg
9 Township Supervisor. Served as Chairman - three
10 elected Board Supervisors, along with Marc Rideout
11 and Linda Asper. A few years ago we approved, by
12 unanimous vote, at a public meeting, that if the
13 opportunity presented itself we would keep our
14 options open if a mini casino decided to select a
15 location in Shippensburg Township. Well, it
16 happened, and Parx got a location, Exit 29 here at
17 Shippensburg Township.

18 Mickey Nye, the Chairman of SADCO,
19 Shippensburg Area Development Corporation and I made
20 a trip, then, down to Parx Casino to see for
21 ourselves how they operate. We came away very
22 impressed, especially with their security because
23 Pennsylvania State Police had a special detail there
24 and were prepared for any incidents.

25 Now Parx Casino is back, found a new

1 location and presented a Condition Use Application
2 for a redevelopment plan to the Township in
3 February. The application was received, put on the
4 Township's Planning Committee Agenda at their March
5 meeting. The Planning Committee's four members
6 reviewed the Parx Conditional Application and were
7 unanimous in their recommendations to forward the
8 plan on to the Supervisors for approval.

9 At the April 3rd Supervisors' meeting,
10 after posting the property and advertising the
11 meeting in the local paper, the Township Supervisors
12 heard the proposed Parx plan to develop a new casino
13 in the empty Lowe's building.

14 The meeting was open to the public and
15 everyone had the opportunity to speak on the record
16 if they had any concerns. Four people asked
17 questions and received answers from Parx
18 representatives at the meeting. They asked
19 questions concerning traffic, security, police
20 response time, parking and lighting.

21 In closing, Shippensburg Township
22 Supervisor are all in favor of hosting the Parx
23 Casino in the empty Lowe's building. They believe
24 it will bring new economic growth and other benefits
25 to the Township, the Borough and the Greater

1 Shippensburg community.

2 It's our hope that the Pennsylvania
3 Gaming Commission will look favorable on Parx
4 Casino's application and issue them a license to
5 open a mine casino in Shippensburg Township.

6 Thank you for your time.

7 CHAIR: Next Kathy Coy, the Borough of
8 Shippensburg Mayor, had wanted to be present but she
9 had a conflict, so she has asked that her oral
10 testimony from the March 25th, 2019 hearing be
11 resubmitted and we will do that for her.

12 So, our next speaker will be Sonya
13 Payne.

14 MS. PAYNE: Hi. I'm Sonya Payne and I
15 am a resident of Southampton Township in
16 Shippensburg, and I also am representing not my
17 personal but Shippensburg Community Resource
18 Coalition.

19 The purpose of this letter is to draw
20 attention to and request assistance with the impact
21 of the casino on local human-service organizations
22 and programs. The risk of developing problem
23 gambling doubles when living within 10 to 15 miles
24 of a casino. Problem gambling is defined as an
25 addictive disorder in which the individual

1 experiences persistent and recurring problematic
2 gambling behavior that disrupts personal, family or
3 vocational opportunities.

4 Individuals and their families
5 experiencing problem gambling will need assistance,
6 but the effects go beyond the individuals who
7 participate in gambling. There will be more demand
8 for the existing human-services' network with the
9 addition of a local casino.

10 Example how human-service programs may
11 be affected by casinos may include increased
12 financial assistance request for housing, utilities,
13 childcare and food, increase in demand for
14 mental-health services, drug and alcohol services
15 and domestic-violence services. Increased use of
16 family services, such as couples and family
17 counseling to manage relational conflicts that
18 resolve from problem gambling. New programming for
19 treatment for problem gambling, such as certified
20 gambling counselors and support groups, such as
21 Gamblers Anonymous.

22 As providers of human-service programs
23 to the Shippensburg area, we are asking for
24 attention to the likely increase need for funding
25 and support of human-service programs for the life

1 of the casino in the form of ongoing financial
2 support.

3 According to research by the
4 University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, the
5 following preventative recommendations and
6 strategies are recommended to help communities
7 prepare for the opening of a casino and the ongoing
8 help needed by those patronizing and working at the
9 casino. Educational programs about the signs,
10 symptoms and treatment options for people
11 experiencing problem gambling for all human-service
12 providers. Human service agencies should implement
13 brief screenings for problem gambling, provide
14 public awareness and educational programs directed
15 at the general community, allocate financial
16 resources from those generated by gambling revenue
17 to address gambling-related problems, conduct a
18 benchmark study prior to the opening of the casino
19 to monitor gambling behavior among residents of the
20 area. Training for counseling and professionals to
21 work with problem gamblers and their families.

22 In order to implement these
23 recommendations, human-service agencies will need
24 increased funding to cover the costs of educational
25 programs, trainings and increased use of our current

1 services that provide financial assistance,
2 mental-health services, food assistance and family
3 services.

4 We also recognize the need for new
5 services to address needs related specifically to
6 problem gambling, such as certified gambling
7 counselors, support groups for problem gambling and
8 the financial fallout from gambling debts. We are
9 asking for ongoing financial support for the life of
10 the casino to be allocated to Shippensburg human-
11 service providers to expand our current services and
12 provide new services to prevent and treat the impact
13 that problem gambling will have in our community.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIR: So that is the local
16 government representatives that have registered to
17 speak.

18 Is there any government representative
19 that believe they're registered here and I did not
20 call your name? Raise your hand. Being none, we
21 will move on to the community groups that have
22 registered.

23 Daniel Byers with the Vigilant Hose
24 Company registered, but has asked that his testimony
25 from the March 25th, 2019 hearing be resubmitted.

1 So, we will do that for him.

2 The others are - and if I call your
3 name, if you could stand and be sworn. Jim Rogers,
4 W. Mickey Nye, and Janet Rose. If you could raise
5 your right hand to be sworn in by the Court
6 Reporter.

7 ---

8 WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE

9 ---

10 CHAIR: Our first speaker will be Jim
11 Rogers, and on deck will be W. Mickey Nye.

12 PASTOR ROGERS: Hello, how are you?
13 My name is Jim Rogers. I reside in Southampton
14 Township and I'm a Pastor of Shippensburg First
15 Church of God and I represent Shippensburg First
16 Church of God. I'm also here with a number of other
17 churches in the community that oppose Parx Casino
18 coming to our community.

19 My wife and I moved to the
20 Shippensburg area about six-and-a-half years ago and
21 shortly after we moved here, we attended one of the
22 many parades that happens in downtown Shippensburg,
23 and afterwards we looked at each other and said you
24 know what, this is like living in a Hallmark movie
25 town, and we felt so blessed to be able to be part

1 of this kind of community.

2 A casino coming in is going to ruin
3 that. All of the studies, if anybody takes the time
4 to look, all of the studies show that a casino is a
5 cancer on communities. Crime is increased,
6 addictions increase. I was told by an expert that
7 organized crime even use casinos to launder their
8 money. Half of the people that frequent the casinos
9 have \$0 in their savings account. The majority of
10 the money that comes into the casinos comes from
11 people who are addicted to gambling, and they
12 frequent four to five times a week.

13 I wonder if our Parx representatives
14 gamble four to five times a week at your casinos.
15 People who are addicted do and it destroys their
16 families, but also, it does not help the community
17 financially. Actually, studies show that local
18 restaurants suffer because people go to the casino
19 restaurants rather than the local mom-and-pop
20 restaurants. It's actually going to be devastating
21 our community.

22 The need for police, the need for
23 emergency services all go up whenever a casino comes
24 to town. And so we're asking, please, Pennsylvania
25 Gaming Control Board, please allow us to keep our

1 Hallmark small-family town. Do not allow this
2 cancer come into it. All the lights and the - the
3 big-screen TVs mean nothing to us. That doesn't
4 help the suffering that comes when people lose their
5 money so that you can get rich and people have a
6 hard time feeding their children, paying their rent,
7 and dealing with the addiction that comes with it.
8 Not only the addiction to gambling, to alcohol,
9 drugs and all the other things that come with
10 casinos.

11 I know some people think, well, there
12 could be money coming into emergency services, like
13 fire departments and I really appreciate what our
14 fire departments do, as volunteers. It's just
15 amazing to me that they're able to function as
16 volunteers, but with a casino, people are no longer
17 going to be giving freely to the fire departments
18 because they'll way, well, they're getting money
19 from the casinos. So, fundraising will go down.
20 Plus, people will have less money to give in
21 fundraising, because they'll be losing it at your
22 casinos.

23 So, it's not going to help our
24 emergency services, fire department or police
25 services. It's actually going to put up a greater

1 hindrance upon those services, and again, if anyone
2 takes a little bit of time to look at the studies,
3 casinos are devastating to communities. We don't
4 want you here. The churches in town don't want you
5 here. I have been praying against you and I will
6 continue to pray against you.

7 So, please don't talk to us about
8 faith when you get rich off of the suffering of
9 other people. Your owner is worth \$860 million and
10 that comes from people who are addicted to gambling.
11 In order for the community to make a so-called \$1.8
12 million that you say you're going to bring in to the
13 community, the community would have to spend \$45
14 million in order to reap that benefit.

15 Jesus said - he was asked, you know,
16 what the greatest commandment is, and he said, love
17 the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind
18 and strength and love your neighbor as yourself. A
19 casino doesn't honor either one of those. Shame on
20 you.

21 Thank you.

22 And I also have a petition if we could
23 submit those at some point.

24 CHAIR: Yes, sir, and can I ask you to
25 remask and adhere to the rules?

1 PASTOR ROGERS: Yes.

2 CHAIR: Thank you.

3 PASTOR ROGERS: Sorry. Do you want
4 those now?

5 CHAIR: If you can - if you want to
6 get to the front of the stage and Richard will take
7 them from you and we'll make sure they're included.

8 So our next speaker is W. Mickey Nye
9 and on deck is Janet Rose. Mr. Nye?

10 MR. NYE: I'm W. Mickey Nye,
11 M-I-C-K-E-Y, N-Y-E. I'm a resident of Shippensburg
12 Township and I'm the president of SADC0,
13 Shippensburg Area Development Corporation. SADC0's
14 task is to bring new businesses to Shippensburg, and
15 SADC0 is in favor of bringing a casino to
16 Shippensburg. We like the idea of taking over the
17 vacant Lowe's building to rehabilitate that building
18 and to prevent a potential blighted vacancy problem
19 of vacant property.

20 SADC0 believes in the creation of jobs
21 and we feel that the casino would be a big plus for
22 the community. It would draw people into the
23 community, to help other businesses, shops, the
24 hotels, restaurants and the Luhrs Performing Arts
25 Center.

1 I've been asked by several people in
2 the community if I own the Lowe's building, and for
3 the record, I do not own the Lowe's building and I
4 have no financial interest in it. In 2019, for the
5 same hearing, I interviewed several Redevelopment
6 Authorities in areas that have casinos. I
7 reinterviewed the Fayette County Redevelopment
8 Authority on the Nemaquin Casino. The gentleman
9 who I interviewed distributes the funds that they
10 generated from casino money.

11 In 2020 they generated over \$500,000
12 in money. With this money, it helped support the
13 local economy. They shared with me that the state
14 and county funding has been depleted and this money
15 helped substantially. The nice thing about this
16 particular money is that the - there's a lot of
17 flexibility on distributing the money. They don't
18 have to follow the rules and the strings that are
19 tied into the typical county and state funding.

20 Some notable examples of the funds
21 from 2020 that they spent this \$500,000 on, four
22 parks received \$70,000, two fire stations received
23 \$50,000. Helping Hands Ministry received \$10,000.
24 Other organizations, including job training,
25 nonprofit churches and infrastructure for the

1 Township and municipalities also receive money.

2 I spoke with Carrie Morrison of
3 Wharton Township, with the casino in Nemacolin. She
4 had only positive things to say about the economic
5 impact of the - of the Township. She only had good
6 things to say even when I probed her about
7 negatives. I asked her about the crime. She said
8 there was no increase in crime. Their funds for the
9 casino had a huge impact on improvements to the
10 Township buying equipment and helping out with
11 roads, and holding down property taxes, and we all
12 want our property taxes to be lower.

13 I contacted Julie McCoy, the Executive
14 Director of Allegheny Economic Development
15 Authority. That's that the Rocky Gap Casino in
16 Western Maryland. She reported only positive
17 impacts to the region. Their funds provided 600
18 two-year scholarships with full tuition to students
19 at Allegheny College of Maryland and Frostburg State
20 College, and 200 workforce development job training
21 scholarships. Their money also goes to support fire
22 companies, EMS, volunteer services.

23 She told me that it had a huge impact
24 from the casino with their employment, drawing more
25 traffic to local businesses and to the park

1 activities and they said the security jobs, for
2 example, were very high-paying jobs and their money
3 also supports a food bank and other capital
4 projects.

5 I also interviewed a Lieutenant from
6 the PA State Police. He told me they have special
7 rules and policies in place that they've implemented
8 for casinos all around the state. Officers have
9 special training. The State Police are meeting with
10 casino management for best practices of safety and
11 procedures. They also have the ability to pull
12 resources from other barracks, which the local
13 police force wouldn't have.

14 In conclusion, SADC0 believes that the
15 casino should be in Shippensburg, and we also
16 believe that if the casino had located in
17 Chambersburg at the mall or in Carlisle, the same
18 people from this community would go to those
19 casinos.

20 So, in that respect, SADC0 supports it
21 being here. We want to keep the funding here. We
22 want to use that funding to help our local fire
23 companies, EMS and civic organizations. We don't
24 want to allow public - we want to allow our public
25 officials to distribute these funds deserving - to

1 deserving local organizations in our community.

2 Please vote yes for the Parx Casino.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIR: The next speaker is Janet
5 Rose.

6 MS. ROSE: My name is Janet Rose. I
7 live in Shippensburg Borough, and I'm here
8 representing the Shippensburg Civic Club, an
9 organization of 70 women who have been involved in
10 good things in Shippensburg for more than a century.

11 I was privileged to address you at the
12 March 2019 meeting and interestingly enough, much of
13 the information is still relevant today.

14 I believe, and you probably are aware,
15 that the National Association of Realtors say the
16 impact on neighboring property values is always
17 negative. Until the 1970s there were very few
18 casinos, mostly in Nevada. Then New Jersey decided
19 to allow Atlantic City to open and it boomed.
20 Hotels were built, casinos are built, thousands of
21 people were hired, but the rest of the city saw no
22 improvement, and we all know, the casino boom there
23 ended and Atlantic City still has a problem with
24 sustaining even one grocery store.

25 The story of casinos' boom and bust is

1 everywhere, Ohio, Florida, Mississippi, and on and
2 on. As more and more casinos open, individual
3 revenues drop. Moody's estimates that revenues will
4 continue to drop by as much as seven-and-a-half
5 percent in the coming years. Unlike sports arenas
6 or concert venues, people who run casinos do not
7 encourage businesses or other shops to open nearby.

8 The casino is designed to be an all-absorbing
9 environment that does not release customers until
10 they have exhausted their money.

11 This fantasy that Downtown
12 Shippensburg will suddenly come to life is just
13 that, a fantasy. So, let's look at the community of
14 Shippensburg right now. The poverty rate is a
15 whopping 15 percent. When the Civic Club learned
16 last year that our school district, which is not
17 very big, has 68 homeless students, our members
18 donated over \$5,600 in gift cards that were
19 distributed to these children.

20 This month we see the opening of a
21 homeless shelter for families. Churches providing
22 free community meals has seen significant increases
23 in people coming and SPO, which stands for
24 Shippensburg Produce and Outreach, provides fresh
25 food and nearly 600 people seeking help last month.

1 Our Civic Club is in the process now of purchasing
2 several apartments for transitional rental families
3 who cannot afford otherwise.

4 So, do we need another challenge for
5 our most vulnerable people? A study by Amy Ziglo
6 observes that more than half of casino patrons are
7 over 50 and poorer and older than average residents.
8 As gambling addiction increases dramatically, a
9 range of studies estimate that between 40 to 60
10 percent of casino revenues are earned from these
11 problem gamblers.

12 During the past year of lockdowns and
13 quarantines, online gambling has exploded, just as
14 our young people and many older have become addicted
15 to social media, perhaps this, the ubiquitous
16 cellphone, will destroy brick-and-mortar casinos.
17 Like the famous Shippensburg experiment of the
18 incinerator, it becomes another useless eyesore.
19 The Parx Casino operators plan contributions to
20 local fire companies, EMTs and the Township.
21 Nationally, the return to local service is 2.5
22 percent. Since unlike the federal reserve, they
23 can't print money, these money contribution comes
24 from the dollars our friends and neighbors have
25 lost.

1 I believe that it's fair to ask what
2 the Shippensburg Township government and the casino
3 operators are proposing for sure-to-be-needed
4 services, mental health, problem gambling, food
5 banks, local police, homeless shelters and so forth.
6 Until these concerns are addressed, the women of the
7 Civic Club are opposed to the casino.

8 CHAIR: That is the end of my list for
9 community groups.

10 Is there a community group
11 representative here who thought they -? Want to
12 step to the microphone, sir?

13 MR. BYERS: I'm Daniel Byers. I
14 submitted to request to speak, if that's okay.

15 CHAIR: Mr. Byers?

16 MR. BYERS: Yes.

17 CHAIR: Okay. I had that you would
18 have liked to resubmit your oral testimony, but were
19 you sworn in?

20 MR. BYERS: No, ma'am.

21 CHAIR: Could you raise your right
22 hand to be sworn?

23 ---

24 DANIEL BYERS,
25 CALLED AS A WITNESS IN THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING, AND

1 HAVING FIRST BEEN DULY SWORN, TESTIFIED AND SAID AS
2 FOLLOWS:

3 ---

4 MR. BYERS: Good afternoon. I am
5 Daniel Byers, President Emeritus of Vigilant Hose
6 Company and also a Shippensburg Township resident.

7 I'm once again speaking on behalf of
8 the Department, and thank you for allowing me to do
9 so.

10 As you previously stated, I would like
11 to resubmit my previous testimony from two years
12 ago. However, our present status remains the same
13 as previously indicated - the community providing
14 emergency response as needed.

15 Our biggest concern present day is
16 lack of funding due to the pandemic, which has
17 drastically affected our ability to raise money in
18 support of our operations. The mandated lockout has
19 completely shut down our bingo and drawing
20 abilities. It has forced us to look at other means
21 to raise money, such as online raffles and calendar
22 drawings.

23 Our fundraising loss is estimated to
24 be at \$180,000 due to the pandemic. Our
25 municipalities are doing their absolute best to

1 support us, but we still fail - fall short
2 supporting our operational needs. I speak to you in
3 support of the casino and recognize the
4 possibilities of financial support that may be seen
5 from your business coming to Shippensburg Township.

6 I also realize the potential benefits for other
7 nonprofit organizations and unfunded Township
8 projects that would support the citizens of
9 Shippensburg.

10 In closing, I appreciate your time in
11 allowing me to comment on behalf of the Vigilant
12 Hose Company, and we remain excited about the
13 possibilities that exists when Parx Casino is
14 operational.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIR: We will now move onto the
17 individuals that have registered.

18 As I call your name, if you could
19 stand up. Bruce Levy, Joshua Rosetta, Anastasia
20 Hummer, Patti Slozat, Wayne Gruver, Wayne Brubaker,
21 Sally Hershey, Ed Schale, Debra Heefner and Alvin
22 Martin, and if I mispronounced your name or I will
23 later, I apologize in advance.

24 And now, if you could all raise your
25 right hand to be sworn by the Court Reporter.

1 ---

2 WITNESSES SWORN EN MASSE

3 ---

4 CHAIR: And we will begin with Bruce
5 Levy, with Joshua Rosetta on deck.

6 PASTOR LEVY: My name is Bruce Levy.
7 I live in Southampton Township, Franklin County.
8 I'm the Pastor of the Christ/Otterbein Charge United
9 Methodist Church and former Principal of
10 Shippensburg High School.

11 I'm only speaking for myself. My
12 basic premise on the casino is, why would you want
13 to bring a casino to a town with such a high poverty
14 level, as Jan just talked about? When I was
15 Principal as SASHS, I learned that as a school
16 district, we had the third highest acute poverty
17 rating - and that's a statistic you can check.
18 Third highest acute poverty rating in Southcentral
19 Pennsylvania, behind Harrisburg and Steelton. That
20 thought alone changed my thoughts on our school
21 kids.

22 Doesn't a casino attempt to get people
23 to gamble, to spend? Why would you want poor
24 people, hurting their families and themselves by
25 spending? And then I ask you, where do people who

1 are broke turn after they run out of money? Of
2 course they - they turn to petty crime, stealing,
3 theft, robbery. So, I ask you, why come to a poor
4 town and take advantage of its people? It just
5 doesn't make logical sense. Do you not care about
6 our people?

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIR: Joshua Rosetta, with Anastasia
9 Hummer on deck.

10 MR. ROSETTA: Hello. I am - I am
11 definitely not going to get applause today, so -.
12 My name's Josh Rosetta. I live in the Borough of
13 Shippensburg. I've been a house hunter for five
14 years. I moved from D.C. about a couple - five
15 years ago. Prior to that I lived around here for
16 three years. So, I volunteer downtown.

17 I write grants for some organizations,
18 501(c)(3)s, and I help out a lot with problems, or
19 try to, that you've heard articulated here, people
20 being poor and so forth.

21 It's a tough conversation because a
22 lot of people here will run off emotions rather than
23 objectively looking at factual data or try to do
24 some confirmation - where they'll quickly Google to
25 get information to pull, hey, this must be my thing,

1 you know.

2 I read last night 73 pages that were
3 written and submitted and it's pretty terrifying
4 when I'm reading that this Category 4 Casino is all
5 of a sudden bringing in sex trafficking, drugs and
6 so forth because of gambling. Yet if you look at
7 casinos nearby in Pennsylvania for technically 29
8 miles north of us, not a single crime has happened
9 and that is like three times the size of what's
10 being here.

11 A lot of people in this town like
12 individual responsibility, but only when it pertains
13 to their needs. So, you hear a lot about poor
14 people. The poverty rate in 2019, 15 percent below
15 poverty line in Shippensburg. That's factual data.
16 So, I see this false information is projecting a
17 negative connotation that doesn't exist. And we -
18 the fact is, we need an economic boost in this town.

19 Most of the people behind me, they're on the tail
20 end of their lives, are not going to have to deal
21 with in 30 years where the town is getting poor, no
22 money.

23 I try to help and bring in finances to
24 the town, certain artists and so forth. You can't
25 do it. No volunteers. They say, we'll help the

1 town, but doesn't do it. Churches don't pay taxes.

2 We have the most churches per capita than any town
3 of our size. We ask the Mayor Borough (sic), for
4 example. They're trying to cut a million dollars
5 off the School Board budgeted. The Borough itself has
6 160-some thousand dollars in debt. That was just
7 announced not too long ago.

8 They're trying to get funding from
9 these nonprofits because they don't have to pay
10 property taxes, yet my property taxes go up. I
11 don't mind paying the taxes. We need help, but
12 that's not long-term sustainable growth, this casino
13 is. If you want to help somebody, actually go out
14 and help, give a hand, educate them.

15 I wish I could sit down with some of
16 the naysayers and talk on an objective level and to
17 point out, hey, you're not looking at the full
18 picture. That's not happening here and this kind of
19 talk continues and continues. This organization
20 that we're standing in right now, I love the
21 University, but they don't pay any taxes at all, and
22 it takes a huge chunk of the land in Shippensburg.
23 They're helping us downtown, but we need actual
24 something more viable and so forth.

25 If you care about the poor people, you

1 know, try to get them jobs. There's good-paying
2 jobs here. \$40,000 a year, most people probably
3 would actually live on that. I'm not going to say
4 that every poor person can't handle themselves and
5 all of a sudden they're going to go gambling.

6 Do you ban the PA lottery if it's
7 here? What about the online gambling? I don't need
8 a casino here to do that. I am a gambler. I'm
9 financially solvent, doing very well for myself. My
10 family's not breaking down. Now, that's anecdotal
11 to myself, yes. And I have close ones that maybe
12 don't have that, but I actually went out and helped
13 them, showed them ways to improve themselves and by
14 doing so, they actually still gamble, but
15 reasonably. That's helping people, not this total
16 negative hearing - I keep hearing about for ten
17 years of my life here.

18 So I support the casino and you'll
19 see a grant if you do come, from me, from our local
20 organizations.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIR: Anastasia Hummer, with Patti
23 Slozat on deck.

24 MS. HUMMER: Hello. I'm Anastasia
25 Hummer. Thank you for allowing me to speak. As a -

1 as a person who has been directly affected by
2 addictions, all kinds of addictions, alcohol,
3 gambling, spending, I would just like to say that if
4 that's the effect a casino is going to have on this
5 community to all the people who - and all the
6 families who have been affected by addiction, is
7 just enormous.

8 There are just so many people
9 struggling, especially now with COVID. People who
10 have been out of work for a long time and you say
11 that this will create more jobs. Well, there are
12 plenty of jobs out there right now. I go around
13 Shippensburg and all I see is places that are
14 hiring. Every single place I pass has a hiring
15 sign. Why is that? Nobody wants to work right now
16 because they're getting unemployment.

17 So, it's like, what's the point of a
18 casino, as far as - as far as employment goes? All
19 it does to me, is cater to the people who are poor,
20 the people who aren't working by either choice or by
21 - by no choice of their own.

22 I just - I just ask you to reconsider
23 this casino.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIR: Patti Slozat and Wayne Gruver

1 is on deck.

2 MS. SLOZAT: I'm Patti Slozat and I'm
3 from Shippensburg and I am a member of - I live in
4 Shippensburg Township, very near your proposed
5 casino. My friends and I are very against the
6 neighbors. We're very against the casino coming
7 into Shippensburg.

8 I've had firsthand experience with
9 addiction. My great grandfather drank his paycheck
10 and his children went to bed hungry at night. The
11 scars that my grandfather leaves, will carry - they
12 carried them and they ran very deep through their
13 whole life.

14 Saying no to the casinos here and
15 spare our children this terrible kind of anguish,
16 because you know that they're going to be - people
17 are going to be getting addicted to gambling and to
18 drinking and a former neighbor of mine when I was
19 growing up, well, she spent all her money playing
20 firehouse bingo, and when she ran out of money at
21 her fingertips, she went and dipped into her
22 husband's retirement account without his knowledge
23 and blew, I'm thinking it was around \$25,000.

24 That had to be a really shock - a
25 great shock. Here he is in his 60s, ready to

1 retire, and, poof, his money is gone and this game
2 was not run by professionals, but you better believe
3 that getting people addicted is exactly what the
4 Parx Casino people, professionals are banking on.
5 They offer big-time games that are mathematically
6 rigged against players. And slot machines are their
7 hugest money-makers and Parx has slated to have 500
8 of those. We saw that in their initial
9 presentation.

10 Their - these slot machines are
11 professionally designed. All the features are
12 designed to keep people there playing until their
13 money is gone, sucking every dime out of them.
14 Forty (40), 60 percent of slot machine profits are -
15 slot machine profits they're taken off of what's
16 called slot machine addicts. That's a pretty sad
17 label. One out of 20 U.S. citizens have had their
18 lives turned upside down because they become
19 addicted to gambling, commercialized gambling.

20 And last Sunday, well, I asked my
21 four-year-old great-niece, I said, do you think it
22 would be a smart choice to play an expensive game
23 that you would likely not win? No, was her answer.

24 Shame on our government for
25 sanctioning a thing a four-year-old can figure out

1 is simply not a smart choice. I found out when a
2 casino comes to the community, the community's
3 economic situation improves, but just for the
4 beginning part. Within two to three years, without
5 exception, the social cost escalates. Increase in
6 police calls, EMS calls, drug addiction, gambling
7 addiction, domestic violence, divorce, child abuse
8 all went up while the community's economics went
9 down. This is not a winning situation for our town.

10

11 And now, one of my concerns, big, big
12 concerns, is traffic, because Parx Casino is located
13 on Conestoga Drive and you must either use -. Most
14 people will probably use Walnut Bottom Road, right
15 off the interstate, I-81, to come down, or 11.
16 There's basically three roads in that area, 11,
17 Conestoga Drive and Walnut Bottom. They connect
18 each other.

19 Well, Conestoga Drive is the only
20 access road from the Walmart complex and for the
21 residents - and there's about 40 of them, with the
22 apartment, the Village of Timber Hills, that sits
23 behind Walmart and it also is an access road for two
24 medical building and a soon-to-be very large opening
25 storage facility.

1 Well, according to Parx Casino, this
2 is not in anybody's neighborhood. Well, I hate to
3 tell you on your map that you showed overhead, I
4 could see down there in Shippensburg Mobile Estates,
5 which is about a third of a mile from the Parx
6 Casino, I bet I could find my house on that map.

7 Then there's the growing community of
8 Deerfield, which sits right beside Shippensburg
9 Mobile Estates, Meadowsgreen, which sits a little
10 ways, about a third of a mile, behind the Lowe's
11 building and then when you come down to the corner
12 of Walnut Bottom Road and Conestoga - Conestoga
13 Drive, there's Country Manor. These places have
14 roughly 600 homes and apartments, those three places
15 alone.

16 And in a nutshell, you have 850 homes
17 - I pretty much approximated - using three road
18 options, Walnut Bottom, Conestoga Drive and Route 11
19 and I've heard that it's estimated that this place
20 will draw roughly 200 - 2,000 cars on an average a
21 day. Well, there's 500 parking spaces. Some people
22 probably come and go.

23 CHAIR: Ms. Slozat, your time is up.
24 If you have additional comment, I will give the
25 Board Clerk email address at the end of the hearing

1 and you're welcome to submit the rest of your
2 testimony via email.

3 MS. SLOZAT: I would gladly do that.
4 Thank you.

5 CHAIR: Thank you. Wayne Gruver.

6 MR. GRUVER: Yes. My name is Wayne
7 Gruver and I am a resident of Southampton, Franklin
8 Township. And I also am a member of the United -
9 Shippensburg United.

10 I have three main reasons why I
11 opposed the casino. The casino will prey on the
12 most vulnerable among us. Surrounding townships and
13 municipalities have had little or no say in the
14 process and the Parx application is woefully
15 lacking.

16 I believe commercial gambling truly
17 does prey on the most vulnerable. They prey on
18 those with gambling addiction, those who play
19 endlessly for the thrill of the next big win. They
20 prey on those with financial hardship, those who
21 view this as an opportunity to get enough money to
22 pay the rent, pay the electric bill, who need money
23 to pay an outstanding debt.

24 They prey on people with mental-health
25 issues, those who are struggling with depression,

1 those who are going through manic episodes. The
2 compulsive and depressive nature of mental illness
3 coupled with the predatory nature of the gambling
4 industry result in devastating outcomes for the
5 most -.

6 There are many different views on
7 commercial gambling. However, there appears to be
8 one item everyone agrees on. Problem gambling is a
9 real issue. Let's be clear, lives will be destroyed
10 and negatively affected as a part of this casino.
11 According to the National Gambling Impact Study
12 Commission, gambling addiction will increase by
13 about ten percent within a 50-mile radius of a
14 casino.

15 My life experiences tells me that
16 there will be much pain and suffering. I grew up in
17 Walnut Bottom, a small nearby community. My dad was
18 a stone mason who made decent money. By day he
19 would build beautiful homes, only to come home
20 tonight to what most would call a dump. No, this
21 was not a gambling problem, but a drinking problem.
22 Unfortunately, when children are involved, the
23 devastating impacts are very similar.

24 One of my most vivid childhood
25 memories is sitting on the front porch watching the

1 cars come down the road, hoping it would be my dad,
2 and he would make it home with enough money to make
3 our Friday trip to the grocery store. It saddens me
4 that these type of memories will be seared into the
5 minds of more children. There is a truth I recently
6 heard, success in the gambling industry only comes
7 to someone else at someone's expense. Again,
8 success in the gambling industry only comes at
9 someone else's expense.

10 Secondly, there are major flaws in the
11 Gaming Board's process. Even though the impact of
12 this casino is far-reaching, nearby townships have
13 had little to no say in the matter. Shippensburg
14 Township has had way too much power in this
15 decision.

16 I believe it's imperative that the
17 Gaming Board fully understand and take into
18 consideration how close the casino will be located
19 to other townships. For example, there's a 55-plus
20 senior community located in Shippensburg, Cumberland
21 Township, within a mile of the casino. The people
22 in the surrounding townships will be impacted.

23 I have reached out to multiple
24 Pennsylvania State Representatives, whose only
25 response, it's a local township issue, or it's not

1 in their district. Before proceeding any further in
2 the application process, this should be addressed.
3 The impacted communities deserve to have this on a
4 ballot, so we can have a yes or no vote.

5 My final point, the application
6 submitted by Parx Casino is woefully lacking. The
7 insufficient effort put forth by Parx Casino shows a
8 total lack of respect to the Gaming Board and the
9 people of Shippensburg. The current casino building
10 is completely different than what was originally
11 proposed. However, the economic impact analysis in
12 Appendix 37 has remained unchanged. How can that
13 be? The facility is at a different location, and
14 now it's a remodel as opposed to a new build.

15 Over the past two years there have
16 been major changes in business, due to the pandemic,
17 along with skyrocketing construction costs. It's
18 unreasonable to conclude that all these changes, not
19 one dollar in the economic impact to our community
20 has changed from the original application.

21 Given the major issues in this
22 application, we believe that the only reasonable
23 response by the Pennsylvania Gaming Board - Control
24 Board is to reject Parx Casino application.

25 In closing, please remember this truth

1 that success in the gambling industry only comes at
2 the expense of someone else. Please don't let it be
3 at the expense of the families and children of
4 Shippensburg and the surrounding communities. I
5 would like to add one thing. I listened to that
6 presentation. It reminded me when I used to work
7 for a major oil company. You would think listening
8 to them that they were the greatest company in the
9 world. And by looking at Parx Casino, they are also
10 very good at spinning their story.

11 Thank you for your time and
12 consideration.

13 CHAIR: Next we have Wayne Brubaker,
14 with Sally Hershey on deck.

15 Mr. Brubaker?

16 MR. BRUBAKER: Wayne Brubaker, I'm
17 from Shippensburg, Southampton Township, Cumberland
18 County. I'd like to speak to some of the things we
19 heard earlier today.

20 Most of what we heard today was about
21 Bensalem. Bensalem was a Category 1 Casino with all
22 the bells and whistles, similar to all casinos in
23 the New Jersey, Atlantic City area. I don't know
24 how that applies specifically to Shippensburg, a
25 Category 4. I'm not sure.

1 I also see some irony in some of this.
2 The same Commission that provides them the licensing
3 is the same Commission that is in charge of making
4 sure that the chronic gamblers were taken care of.
5 I find that as a bit of a conflict of interest. How
6 can you be licensing someone, but yet pulling
7 back on the rein of this?

8 The other thing that we were told is
9 that they work with local businesses, but yet
10 Chickie's & Petie's - Pete's is a Philadelphia
11 company. How is that local? I mean, I don't
12 believe that that is a local company. So, I believe
13 that we're going to see outside companies come into
14 our town. Those were my unprepared remarks. I'll
15 get to my prepared remarks.

16 I do want to thank you for the
17 opportunity to speak and it's good to have that
18 privilege. My first association with casino
19 gambling occurred in 1975, when I first met my wife,
20 Karen. Her parents live and her grandparents lives
21 in a community right outside of Atlantic City.

22 In 1974 New Jersey turned down a
23 referendum, gambling state. Why? But in 1976, they
24 brought gambling into Atlantic City just because it
25 was such a poor town and the citizens of New Jersey

1 voted to have it, by a narrow margin. In 1979, my
2 wife and I were visiting her parents. She fell ill
3 and was hospitalized and it was there that I found I
4 had my first encounter with the devastation that
5 that come from a casino.

6 One night as I was waiting for the bus
7 to go home, a man came to me and said, I need money,
8 I have to have a train to get back to Philadelphia
9 to my kids and to my job. I didn't give him any
10 money that night, but the next night I was really
11 curious and I was very surprise to see that same man
12 telling the same story to some other unsuspecting
13 individual waiting for the bus.

14 I believe that that is where the
15 problem is. Right across the street from the casino
16 is a Walmart and every Christmas we hear - see
17 someone outside Walmart ringing a bell and we know
18 what that is. While we're looking for our friends
19 and families for their presents, they are reminding
20 us that there are needs in our community that should
21 be met.

22 The problem is - and most of us will
23 take a little bit of time and pull money out a
24 wallet - our wallets out and give them a little bit
25 of money. That organization is accountable for

1 those funds. The unfortunate part of it is that
2 panhandler who came to me, who wanted me to drop a
3 few coins in his pan has no accountability. There
4 is none.

5 So my question is, what do we want for
6 our Walmart? Do we want bell ringers or do we want
7 panhandlers? I believe we will have panhandlers if
8 there's a casino that goes in. There is a false
9 hope that the casinos put out, that you are somehow
10 going to win. The way it really works is this. You
11 take your dollar, put it into the - to the slot
12 machine. They take their expenses, they take their
13 profits and they give you back a paltry amount of
14 money. It really is not viable for them to do
15 anything different than that.

16 They're in business, I understand
17 that. They have to make a profit or they won't be
18 in business very long, but they are preying on those
19 poor people that can't control their impulses.

20 Thank you for your time.

21 CHAIR: Sally Hershey, with Ed Schale
22 on deck.

23 MS. HERSHEY: Hello. My name is Sally
24 Hershey and I live in North Newton Township. I am a
25 member of Shippensburg United. The development of a

1 casino in Shippensburg, or within a 25-mile radius,
2 concerns us for many reasons.

3 I have quoted several sections from
4 the application submitted by Greenwood Casino to the
5 Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.

6 Concern number one, first and
7 foremost, Econ Solutions did not update any of the
8 financial impact reports in their economic and
9 fiscal impact completely for Mr. Mark Stewart of
10 GWC. They did update the physical location of the
11 venue and decreased, yes decreased, the number of
12 projected jobs the project would bring.

13 Construction jobs decreased from 350
14 to 150. Their proposed projections of construction
15 and operation job estimates decreased from 550 to
16 375. The decrease in jobs did not alter the
17 economic and financial impact according to their
18 current application. How can you, as the PGCB, and
19 other local Representatives of the Township, county
20 and state level determine the true financial impact
21 with outdated information?

22 The quality of their application is
23 lacking. The number of grammatical errors and
24 discrepancies discovered in the application should
25 be embarrassing. For this point alone their

1 application should be denied.

2 Concern number two, casinos and public
3 do agree that problem gambling is a real issue.
4 However, casinos do not disclose how they make the
5 bulk of their profits from problem gamblers.

6 Past Parx President, Dave Jonas, said
7 his revenue comes almost exclusively from local low
8 rollers. And I quote, we underestimated
9 significantly how many trips our customers were
10 going to make at Parx. It's not uncommon for us to
11 have 150 to 200 trips a year. That's three to four
12 times a week, and many come even more often. Jonas
13 stated, we have customers who give us \$25 to \$30
14 five times a week, according to an article.

15 Luck Ambassadors are sent onto the
16 floor when the tracking of patrons during play flags
17 them as down and losing money and they might leave.
18 The Luck Ambassadors lure patrons with free credits,
19 drinks and food to continue to play. Global Cash
20 Access is the ATM company who specializes in
21 casinos. They monopolize on the patrons by
22 collecting data on withdrawal history and sell it
23 back to the casinos for marketing purposes.

24 Casinos don't enlist patrons into
25 rehab programs until they have hit rock bottom.

1 Predatory gambling is real and it is here now.
2 Casino officials have pulled the wool over the eyes
3 of the public, clouding their vision with depictions
4 of job and economic growth. There is no economic
5 growth, rather redistribution of wealth out of our
6 community.

7 Thomas Bonner of Parx stated, 80
8 percent of the patrons are estimated to come within
9 a 25-mile radius. The casino is required to return
10 two percent of the revenue generated from the slot
11 machines. We in turn are giving them 98 percent.
12 That means an estimate of \$36,000,000 is leaving our
13 community, and in return the Township is receiving
14 approximately \$700,000. That is a very poor return.

15 Concern number three, traffic. They,
16 again, did not update this section. Appendix 33
17 states, due to the nature of the proposed casino
18 location, we anticipate negligible impacts on street
19 maintenance. Expect that visitors will have minimal
20 travel on Township Roads, but then in Appendix 7 GW
21 states that they anticipate 850,000 visitors
22 annually. Those visitors will bolster the regional
23 economy on dining, retail and other goods and
24 services. GWC is projecting on average over 2,300
25 visitors daily to their casino, but their traffic

1 study state that there will be no significant change
2 on traffic flow.

3 This doesn't make sense. How can an
4 influx of 2,300 visitors daily have no impact on our
5 traffic? Locals agree, you avoid town during rush
6 hour, due to severe congestion. If there's an
7 accident on 81, the number of trucks rerouted
8 through can be astronomical.

9 In closing, the unaltered financial
10 evaluation discredits and is disrespectful to the
11 PGCB, local, county, state officials and the general
12 public. Problem gambling is real. Casinos create
13 and prey on those individuals as their bread and
14 butter for their establishment.

15 And lastly, it does not make sense.
16 GWC is projecting there will be an influx of 850,000
17 visitors annually, and claim they will bolster the
18 local economy, while having no effect on traffic or
19 road. It is for these reasons I ask you to deny
20 GWC's application for the casino. I have copies of
21 both last time that they submitted, as well as this
22 time, with notes and comments referencing everything
23 that I have stated, as well as articles from
24 everything that I've quoted, that I would like to
25 submit for the record.

1 Thank you.

2 I don't know if Joshua is still here,
3 but I'd invite him to read my comments, once they've
4 been uploaded. I have cited everything, like I
5 said. It looks like he already left. So, anyhow -.

6 CHAIR: Ma'am, if you would like to
7 give you - Doug Carbaugh, our staff member, the
8 paperwork.

9 Next speaker is Ed Schale, with Debra
10 Heefner on deck.

11 MR. SCHALE: Thank you. My name's Ed
12 Schale. I'm a longtime resident of Shippensburg
13 Borough. And I graduated from this great tax-free
14 institution 50-some years ago, and they gave me some
15 great social and responsibility training. And I
16 paid my local, state and federal taxes all the years
17 since I graduated.

18 So, even though I'm a member of a tax-
19 free church, all of our members are also taught in
20 our classes to pay their taxes. I think we create
21 good people in this community. I think we have a
22 great system in this community and I am appealing to
23 the Commission and the Parx representatives our
24 elected officials, consider the fit of a casino in
25 this community. Consider the social fabric of our

1 community. Consider the systems we already have in
2 place, our churches, our volunteers, our food
3 programs, our paid professionals.

4 And our friend from the fire company,
5 you, you got to me tonight. And I think I need to
6 consider all of my help, to all volunteer. I have
7 some areas I focus in, but I got convicted about the
8 firehall tonight, but to depending on the casino to
9 provide funding for our volunteer organizations is a
10 slippery slope. Because then we are taking it out
11 of our hands and we're depending on someone else.

12 And your presentation, Parx, is
13 amazing, but it would make me feel like no community
14 will ever be complete or great without a casino,
15 they do so much for the community. I just find that
16 taking my position, as a volunteer, away from me, my
17 responsibility as a community member away from me.

18 And that's why I say, consider the fit
19 of this casino. I encourage our elected officials
20 not to go for the easy quick revenue fix of a
21 casino. Keep governing. Governing the easy fix of
22 a casino compared to the hard work of governing is
23 something I think we should always keep our sights
24 on.

25 We need to continually improve our

1 infrastructure. We need to continually improve our
2 parks. We have amazing parks here, but they could
3 even be better. Our youth work at my church. We
4 need more and better facilities all the time. The
5 elderly need greater help, the hungry, the homeless.
6 We have homeless communities hidden in the woods in
7 our very community that we talked about tonight. A
8 lot of statistics given. People living in tents
9 right here in Shippensburg.

10 We need to address those issues, but
11 we don't need to depend on someone that comes into
12 the community and makes promises. I personally - I
13 don't - I don't like that part of your pitch, Parx.
14 That doesn't appeal to me. That doesn't do anything
15 for me. Because I feel that in this Shippensburg
16 community, we have love, we have care for each
17 other.

18 We're not perfect, but we have an
19 amazing group of volunteers, food bank workers, all
20 kind of people that are tending to the needs of
21 other people and that should only develop further.
22 And where we fall short, we need to work on that, as
23 churches, as citizens, as groups, as all kind of
24 groups that are represented here tonight. We need
25 to get together better and better, but we don't need

1 to depend on an outside group to support what we do
2 as a family.

3 I'm going to wrap it up here. Do your
4 homework, do the research. Enough facts were given
5 out tonight. I think that the problems of addictive
6 behavior are well-known to anybody that reads or
7 studies just enough to know about those things and I
8 think many of our families have been touched by
9 these issues. I think personally we have many
10 experiences, enough to influence us to object to a
11 casino coming to our area.

12 We're proud of our community. We're
13 proud that our localities have passed laws to
14 preserve the amazing quality, the farmland of
15 Cumberland County, the historical value, the Civil
16 War history. All the things we've done to preserve
17 what the Cumberland Valley is.

18 I came here from - I lived about a
19 mile away from New York City. I came here to
20 college in 1971. I never left. I love this
21 Hallmark town, too. It's not perfect, but
22 volunteers and committed people and people with love
23 in their heart, we will make this community work
24 again and again.

25 So, we need your help. We need our

1 local officials' help. I know the die is cast, I
2 know the vote has been made, but we need your help
3 to consider what this will do to our committee - to
4 our community. I'm sorry and to understand the
5 character of our community, the family character,
6 the faith character of this community we call
7 Shippensburg.

8 I know this is a tough decision for
9 our Township Supervisor, for Commission members, for
10 anybody, but to make a decision like this -. I was
11 on Borough Council in Shippensburg -.

12 CHAIR: Sir -.

13 MR. SCHALE: I'm sorry.

14 CHAIR: I'm going to ask you to wrap
15 up -.

16 MR. SCHALE: And that's the end of
17 tonight's lecture.

18 CHAIR: And if you have any -.

19 MR. SCHALE: Thank you so much for
20 your time.

21 CHAIR: Next - next up, Debrah
22 Heefner, with Alvin Martin on deck.

23 Ms. Heefner?

24 MS. HEEFNER: Hi. I'm Debra Heefner
25 and I represent myself. However, I do have a

1 petition signed by many Intermediate School
2 employees.

3 I moved to Shippensburg when I was
4 entering ninth grade. Prior to that I lived in
5 Steelton, where I couldn't ride my bike freely, due
6 to glass in the streets. I got beat up at the end
7 of fourth grade by large eighth-graders for getting
8 all A's. Witness many fights and riots after school
9 and during sporting events.

10 Imagine my culture shock when I moved
11 here, where I could ride my bike, where I could walk
12 around town without fear of being beaten and I could
13 participate in sports, without fear for my safety.
14 We have a lot going for us here in Shippensburg. We
15 have numerous beautifully-designed parks, spelled P-
16 A-R-K-S, with playground equipment, ball fields and
17 basketball courts.

18 We have this beautiful Luhrs Center
19 that offers top-notch entertainment. We have a
20 college, which offers a great future for their
21 graduates. We have many teams of sports, with
22 incredible coaches, rails to trails and an
23 Appalachian Trail. Our schools are terrific, with
24 some of the highest ratings in the area. We have so
25 much good in our community that we are known for.

1 A casino would detract from our
2 well-known, well-loved community. It's my
3 understanding that the proposed casino would make 80
4 percent of its profit from people within a 20 to 25
5 mile radius of here. That's us.

6 The estimated profit is \$25,000,000 to
7 \$35,000,000 a year. How many folks do you know that
8 can afford to lose money, big money? People losing
9 money don't pay for what they need or get services
10 for their children. People suffer, children suffer
11 and if adults are gambling, they're estimating four
12 to five times weekly, to lose their estimated
13 \$35,000,000, who's watching the children? Who is
14 there to be - while they're there engaged in the
15 slots, we don't have time to volunteer to be a
16 coach. What parents have time to make sure homework
17 is complete? How will this impact our younger
18 generation?

19 I work with the Intermediate School.
20 And yes, our school has a 54 percent poverty rate.
21 People are COVID-struck. That's - over half our
22 students in our building are receiving free and
23 reduced breakfast and lunches. Many people are
24 under the impression that bringing a casino again
25 will have a positive impact on small business and

1 attract more revenue for our town. All I can say to
2 that is see information on San Antonio, Texas and
3 their rejection on the casino. Their research found
4 that small businesses will potentially be negatively
5 impacted.

6 Years ago Atlantic City was a
7 beautiful place. It's turned to a tawdry town, full
8 of casinos and not much else. Gone is the beauty.
9 I realize I'm comparing apples to oranges and that,
10 but do we want to face the possibility of turning
11 tawdry? Are we willing to watch as our small
12 businesses that have worked so hard to improve our
13 downtown go down the drain? Someone really recently
14 mentioned to me the impact of the many beer houses
15 that have become a large part of our town now. Do
16 we have community support for them? Did people
17 raise objections prior to that approval? Honestly,
18 I can't answer my own questions on that.

19 However, I do know that we all daily live
20 with the consequences of those decisions. More
21 traffic, more accidents, more light and air
22 pollution. And albeit more jobs, but at what cost
23 to our community? I would like to recommend to the
24 PGCB that the proposed casino be put on hold until a
25 vote of the people in Southampton Township can

1 happen. A few Township Supervisors - a few Township
2 Supervisors may have agreed to this, but did the
3 people? We all live with the consequences of the
4 huge warehouses. And we may now wish that that
5 might not have happened.

6 Why are we rushing to have a casino
7 potentially - potentially negatively impacting our
8 community? Why not have an outside agency give us
9 information and statistics for the pros and cons?
10 Why not put this to a vote?

11 I'm asking for you to - for the
12 proposed casino to be put on hold until the people
13 of this township, for which I am a part of,
14 Southampton Township, Cumberland County, be able to
15 vote on this.

16 Thank you for your time.

17 CHAIR: Ms. Heefner, Ms. Heefner, if
18 you would like to give your petition to Mr.
19 McGarvey. Thank you.

20 And next speaker, Alvin Martin.

21 MR. MARTIN: My name is Alvin Martin.
22 And what - I'm going to start out by saying, it's
23 all about the money. That's all it is. These
24 people up here, I can't even imagine what they're
25 making to come here and sell us a bill of goods.

1 And I can't believe that the Gaming
2 Control Board would allow this to happen. You just
3 wonder where it's all coming from.

4 I'm very disappointed in the Township
5 Supervisors. I thought they were better than that
6 I didn't know they needed a casino to make more
7 money. There's got to be money coming down the road
8 somewhere for these Township Supervisors. It just -
9 it burns me up that we have to put up with like
10 this. We have a very nice town and we don't need
11 this in it.

12 I am so sad that this is the way
13 things are going. We don't need their money. As a
14 matter of fact, where is the money coming from?
15 It's going to drain the town. Is that right? Is
16 that where it's coming from?

17 All right. We don't need it and I
18 believe Carlisle turned it down, if I'm not
19 mistaken. Carlisle turned them down. Why? They
20 don't want that in their town.

21 Boy is your - the head of your company
22 going to be upset with you, after they hear this. I
23 don't have anything more to say. I'm just sorry
24 that I have to come to a meeting like this and ask
25 the Gaming Control Board not to allow the Township

1 to have it.

2 Now, I'm a native of Shippensburg. I,
3 all my life, have been here. Never heard of
4 anything like this, but I do want to tell you one
5 thing, I wasn't going to do this, but I will, if I
6 can get it out.

7 My dad was a gambling addict. He gave
8 my mom only so much money and she had to deal with
9 that and he spent the rest gambling, cards and
10 whatever they had in the clubs. He went to all the
11 clubs. He drank, he smoked. I had a miserable
12 child life with him and I just - I don't like it. I
13 hate it.

14 I'm really disappointed with some of
15 the people that spoke. They have nice businesses.
16 I will never buy a car from who spoke, never. If
17 he's all for this, I'm against buying cars from him.

18 So, that's all I have to say. I'm
19 finished.

20 CHAIR: And that is the end of my list
21 of individuals that registered by the deadline. Is
22 there anyone who thought they registered but I did
23 not call your name?

24 Okay. I have one recall. Did Linda
25 Asper join us? Asper? Would you like to come

1 forward?

2 And I don't believe you were sworn in.
3 I think you were not here yet. So come up to the
4 microphone, Ms. Asper, and we'll have the Court
5 Reporter swear you in. Raise your right hand.

6 ---

7 LINDA ASPER,
8 CALLED AS A WITNESS IN THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING, AND
9 HAVING FIRST BEEN DULY SWORN, TESTIFIED AND SAID AS
10 FOLLOWS:

11 ---

12 MS. ASPER: So I'm Linda Asper and I
13 am one of Shippensburg Township's Supervisors. I am
14 one of the people who you all have condemned here
15 tonight.

16 I got to tell you, our meetings are
17 always open to the public. I mean, you can come,
18 you can express your concerns. It's not like we can
19 really stop Parx Casino from coming into the Lowe's
20 building. It's a conforming use. Okay?

21 And they are using a building that is
22 abandoned. It is sitting there. It is waiting to
23 be vandalized, instead of building something new.
24 You keep talking about all the problems this is
25 going to bring to our community. It's a mini

1 casino. It's not Atlantic City. It's not Vegas.

2 Okay? It's a mini casino.

3 Gambling problems? Tell me about
4 gambling problems. My father-in-law had a gambling
5 problem. He's in a nursing home right now. He lost
6 everything he had, but he had choices. We all have
7 choices. Okay? That was his choice. We have
8 choices. If you want to gamble, there's lottery
9 tickets, there's bingo. I haven't heard one person
10 say a negative thing about bingo. Excuse me. You
11 know, probably a lot of you go to bingo. What do
12 you call that but gambling? I've seen people take
13 their paycheck to bingo.

14 And I am not condemning the fire
15 company, because that is one of their ways that they
16 make money, but their volunteers are stretched thin.
17 Do I see you people going to the fire company and
18 saying, hey, we'll volunteer at an event to help you
19 out, you know, all that?

20 So, talk about panhandling. See it in
21 Shippensburg all the time. Go to Walmart, you see
22 panhandlers along the road right there. Again, this
23 is a mini casino. Okay?

24 In summary, I am just going to say
25 that life is a gamble itself and to get anywhere in

1 life, you have to take gambles. I think this is a
2 gamble the Shippensburg community should take.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIR: We are at the end of our
5 public comments. The public - the written comments
6 that have been received by the deadline, Monday,
7 have been posted to the Board's website.

8 I understand there are some that came
9 in the mail this morning that were postmarked by the
10 deadline. They will also be posted on the Board's
11 website in the next few days, as well as the
12 comments that - petitions, et cetera, that we
13 received today. Those, too, will also be posted to
14 the Board's website.

15 The record in this matter will remain
16 open. A transcript from today's hearing, as well as
17 all the written comments that are received, will be
18 given to all the Board members for their
19 consideration. The Board will then schedule this
20 matter to be heard at a future - excuse me, at a
21 future Board meeting.

22 Those of you that may not have been
23 able to finish your comment tonight, if you would
24 like to submit them, the email address is
25 boardclerk, B-O-A-R-D-C-L-E-R-K, all one word, @

1 pa.gov. It's also on the Board's website, that
2 email address.

3 Finally, I want to thank the staff
4 here at the University and the Luhrs Center for
5 their help in arranging and holding the hearing
6 today. Thank you all for coming and participating
7 and for your cooperation.

8 The Shippensburg staff has asked that
9 when you exit, please exit to your right, the
10 opposite of where you came in. So, opposite on that
11 side of the building, exit that way. And again,
12 thank you and the hearing is now adjourned.

13 * * * * *

14 HEARING CONCLUDED AT 5:54 P.M.

15 * * * * *

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding
was reported by me on 5/20/2021 and that I,
Bernadette M. Black, read this transcript, and that
I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate
record of the proceeding.

Dated the 2nd day of July, 2021



Bernadette M. Black,
Court Reporter